

JENNIFER FRIEDNASH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and applaud Jennifer Friednash for her outstanding service to our community.

Jennifer works full time as a real estate attorney, but always finds time to teach her kids the value of volunteering through leading by example. She has been an active member and fundraiser for Project PRIDE, which constructed an outdoor classroom alongside Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

Jennifer's work doesn't stop there. She is an active committee member of the Jefferson Economic Council, chair of a committee that provides junior NAIOP members an opportunity to learn about the real estate industry from seasoned professionals and has been a provisional instructor for the Colorado Association of Realtors.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jennifer Friednash for her well deserved recognition by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**IKE SKELTON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2011**

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters on H.R. 6523 for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY,

Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 6523, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 6523 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of this bill by the House.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERV-
ICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,
*Chairman, House Committee on Science and
Technology, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6523, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Science and Technology has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Science and Technology is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over these matters.

During consideration of this bill on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange of letters be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I was absent due to personal family matters, but if present, I would have voted "yes" on:

S. 3481—Amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution.

S. 372—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 6523—Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

**STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT
UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OF
BAHA'I RELIGIOUS MINORITY IN
IRAN**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express both my deep concern and the deep concern of some of my constituents about the unjust imprisonment of several members of a religious minority in Iran. In particular, I wish to speak of the member of the Baha'i faith who have been persecuted and imprisoned in Iran. My home district in Chicago has a rich diversity of people from all backgrounds and faiths, and I am fortunate to have Baha'is as part of this rich diversity. The Baha'i faith is a peaceful religion that teaches the oneness of humanity and that all forms of prejudice should be eliminated.

Some of you will recall that in 2009 I was one of the co-sponsors to House Resolution 175. That resolution condemned the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. H. Res. 175 passed with 407

"aye" votes on October 22, 2009. However, some of my constituents have informed me that the persecution and suppression of the Baha'i faith in Iran persist with no relief in sight.

In 2009 the international press reported that seven Baha'i leaders in Iran were unjustly arrested and held in prison without knowing the charges for their arrest for approximately 20 months.

The unjust prosecution of these seven particular Baha'is was condemned by international leaders and drawn into our national awareness for a short time. Those seven Baha'is are real people with families, who continue to suffer injustice because of their peaceful religious beliefs. The more disturbing fact is that those seven Baha'i leaders are merely the ones that made the headlines. There are approximately 48 additional Baha'is currently imprisoned in Iran. Approximately 132 Baha'is have been arrested and released on bail to await trial, and another 92 Baha'is have been sentenced to imprisonment. In the last decade, hundreds of Baha'is have been prosecuted and imprisoned for their religious beliefs. But that is not the only degradation that Baha'is in Iran must face. Baha'is have been dismissed from their jobs, expelled from universities, and deprived of their property and pensions, all because of their religious beliefs.

Our national consciousness would not be so aware of this unjust and unfair treatment if it had not been for yet another unjust prosecution of a young American journalist, Roxana Saberi, in 2009. While Roxana shared a prison cell with two of the female Baha'i leaders in Evin prison, she was astounded by the tranquility of her Baha'i cell mates even as they faced harsh conditions and uncertainty about their future. Fortunately, Roxana was freed from prison and has returned safely to the United States; however, those seven Baha'i leaders remain in prison and were sentenced to 10 years of confinement in one of the most dreadful prisons in Iran.

In short, the Baha'i faith teaches tolerance, patience, peace and self-investigation of the truth. Yet, Baha'is are singled out and marked from persecution and ridicule from the class room to the court room and from the lunch room to the laboratory. We have our own history of unjust treatment in this country and the grievous and slow healing wounds from such pernicious and repugnant conduct can still be felt today. However, the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion in our great country have contributed greatly to the healing of our society.

I believe each and every human being has a fundamental right to freedom of religion that should not be curtailed or circumscribed by the coincidence of one's citizenship in a particular nation. The freedom in our country to choose how to peacefully worship God is something many of us take for granted. We need only consider the unjust and inhumane treatment of Baha'is in Iran to realize that this freedom is not available to everyone in the world.

I agree with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she condemned the sentencing of the Baha'i leaders and stated that the "United States is committed to defending religious freedom around the world, and we have not forgotten the Baha'i community in Iran."

I speak to you today as a reminder that religious persecution remains a fact of life in our